

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

DAHLIA NEWS

VOL. 3

PUBLISHED BY FRANK PAYNE FARMS, SHAWNEE, KANSAS

No. 1

Dahlia Society Formed

FIRST KANSAS CITY SHOW
AT ARARAT TEMPLE
ON OCTOBER 1-2

FIFTY THOUSAND BLOOMS
ON DISPLAY

The Kansas City Dahlia Society was organized February 29, 1932, with eighteen charter members. The purpose was to encourage the growing of Dahlias in Greater Kansas City and to hold an annual fall show. The following officers were then elected:

Frank Payne president
Chester Moon Vice-President
Miss Marianna Reddick, Secretary
Mrs. Laura E. Harris, .treasurer

Applications began to pour in from Kansas and Missouri points and it was decided to extend the limits and accept members from the entire middle west. Today almost one hundred dahlia growers, both amateur and professional, belong to the society without any special drive to obtain them.

Mr. Wm. T. Doran of Independence, Mo., was appointed manager of the first fall show. He has enlisted the entire membership working on the first exclusive Dahlia Show Kansas City has ever had. It will be held in Ararat (Shawnee) Temple on October 1 and 2. The Temple is located at 11th and Central. You and all of your friends are invited to attend this show. It will be the largest exclusive Dahlia show ever held in the Middle West. More than fifty thousand blooms of Dahlias, Queen of the Autumn flowers, will be on display in all their glory. The exhibits will consist of four divisions. There will be one for amateur growers. Another for commercial growers. One will be for made up work and baskets by retail florists. The fourth will be from growers in distant states who will send dahlias to Kansas City by airplane. Entries from this last class are expected from California and New York.

All of the railroads running into Kansas City have been considering a special low rate excursion for the Dahlia Show within a radius of 200 miles from Kansas City. Consult your local ticket agent if you are coming to the show by rail.

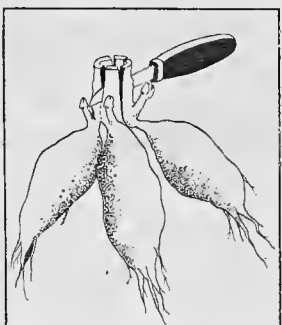
MEMBERSHIP FEE LOW

Dahlia lovers and growers are invited to join the Kansas City Dahlia Society. The membership dues are only \$1.00 per year. Send only \$1.00 as your first year dues and mention if you are an amateur or commercial grower. mail this at once to Frank Payne, President of K. C. D. S., Shawnee, Kansas. You will gain a lot of valuable information by joining and attending the regular monthly meetings held the third Monday evening of each month in Kansas City, Mo.

Ships Flowers To Mexico City

SHAWNEE, Kan.—Kansas dahlias will soon be beautifying the capitol grounds in the city of Mexico. Frank Payne, who has a flower farm here has received an order for fifty dahlia roots from President Ortiz Rubio of Mexico.

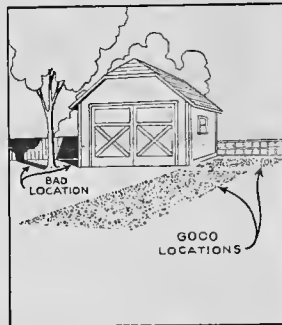
IT IS EASY TO GROW LARGE DAHLIAS Just Follow These Simple Instructions



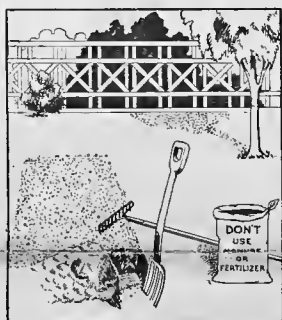
The large clumps of tubers, dug in the fall, should not be divided until planting time. Divide carefully, so that some of the parent stalk is left on each tuber. Sprouts come from the old parent stalk, not from the tuber.



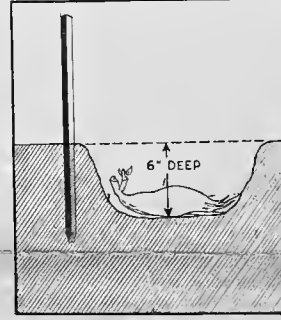
Throughout the middle west, this is the best time to plant. Dahlias are a fall flower. If planted too early they try to bloom in hot summer weather, causing the blooms to blast.



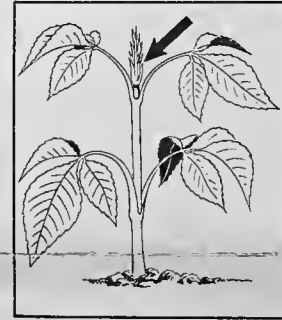
Never plant Dahlias in the shade of trees or buildings. They require plenty of sunshine to insure full growth and fine, large blooms.



Spade up the bed at least 12 inches deep, pulverizing soil finely. Never use fresh manure or fertilizer. Some Dahlias thrive on poor soil. If too fertile, they go to tops at the expense of flowers. Soils that grow beans, corn and potatoes, will grow Dahlias.



Plant your tubers at least 2 feet apart, each way. Prepare holes 6 inches deep and plant only one tuber in each hole. Lay tuber on its side, never stand on end. In windy locations, the stake should be placed at this time.



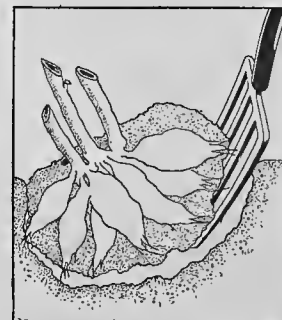
When shoots are 6 inches above the ground, pinch out the center of the plant. This causes it to branch out into a short, stocky bush, conserving moisture and minimizing damage to plants in storms.



Do not water Dahlias at any time—Hoe them instead. All during summer from the time plants are up until they bloom, go out and hoe, hoe, hoe—stirring top soil after every rain. Never allow weeds or grass to grow close to plants.



If extra large blooms are desired when buds are forming, remove some of them as indicated by the arrows. This insures extra large flowers from the remaining buds.



As soon as frost has killed the top of plant, it should be cut off close to the ground, never more than 6 or 8 inches above the crown. Carefully dig up the clump. Do not injure or separate and store upside down in a cool, dry place till spring.

YOU ARE INVITED

—To the EIGHTH ANNUAL DAHLIA SHOW, starting about September 10, at the Payne Dahlia Farm, located near Shawnee, Kansas. Notices will be published in the Kansas City newspapers on the exact date show opens. The display then continues every day until killing frost.

You will see a million dahlia blooms in our twenty-acre cutting field. In addition, there are almost three hundred varieties in an acre test garden, new and rare specimens, every color and type you can think of. Some are the size of a dime, others large as dinner plates. Bring your relatives, friends and neighbors. If you know of some real old grandma or grandpa, bring them too. Do not leave the children at home. This is one place that likes children because we have found that the kiddies love flowers as well as grown-ups. We will be mighty glad to have you as our guest and will do all in our power to make your visit a pleasant one.

Come in the daytime if you can. The dahlias show their best in daylight. However our acre test garden is under electric lights and is open to the public every evening until 9:00 o'clock. There is no charge for admittance and parking is free. Drive out to the Payne Dahlia Farm located one-half mile south of Shawnee, Kansas, on U. S. Highway 50, ten miles southwest of Kansas City. Good roads paved all the way. When you see the notice in the papers remember you already have had a personal invitation.

To Fete Old Folks

Annual Event at Payne Dahlia Farm Next Sunday.

The fourth annual old folks', cripples and shut-ins' day will be observed Sunday at the Frank Payne dahlia farm near Shawnee, Kansas.

The Woman's Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City, Mo., and Kansas City, Kas., and the Business and Professional Women's club of Olathe have arranged to bring elderly persons and shut-ins to the dahlia farm Sunday afternoon. Each elderly visitor and each shut-in will be given a bouquet. Last year on a similar occasion, 400 old persons received bouquets at the farm and the crowd of spectators aggregated about 10,000. Individuals also may bring old persons or shut-ins to the farm to receive bouquets. Any person over 65 years old is classified as an elderly visitor according to Mr. Payne.

There are twenty acres of dahlias in bloom at the farm. It is estimated that there are about 1,000,000 blooms. One acre is under electric lights for the benefit of night visitors.

Thrills In A Dahlia Garden

By Maxine Payne

What could be more inspiring and beautiful on a perfect Sunday morning than to view acres of rubies, diamonds, and emeralds, or would you call them Dahlias, Queen of the autumn flowers? It was early morning and the sun was beaming in all of its glory on dew covered Dahlias imitating a prism with their color and glistening dew drops. The scene resembled a rainbow stretched across a green carpet with the blue sky in the distance.

I wandered through this garden, which is a mecca for flower lovers and marveled that the earth upon which I trod could produce such wonders of nature. Delicate pink, chinese red, mauve, golden yellow, pearly white, royal purple, and vivid orange blossoms dazzled and swayed before my eyes until I pictured them as fairies with a slender and erect body dancing gleefully in the breeze and sunlight.

Nestled on one side of the garden was a bed of small, vivacious-looking red pom-poms. It was not until I studied the gazing globe carefully placed in their midst that I discovered they were the "imps" of this garden. A mischievous smile and a playful winked eye were apparent, making it very difficult for me to retain my dignity in a formal garden. On the opposite side, after entering a latticed arbor, I beheld a regiment of magnificent guards possessing the dignified title of Oyster Bay Beauty. How they glowed in their bewitching red velvet suits with perfect symmetrical form enhanced by a striking background of elaborate green foliage! Erect as a soldier and beautiful as a Queen—truly they were the aristocracy of the garden whose only duty was to curb the mischief of the "imps". Just what should a garden do without the morale of a troop like you?

In this spot I took my last view of the garden. Never before have I seen an array of colors and flowers on a floor of rich brown that appealed to my sentiments more than this dahlia garden in a setting of trees and meadows spotted with shiny black horses.

DAHLIA NEWS

Issued now and then as the spirit moves in the interest of Dahlias and other garden flowers.

THE FRANK PAYNE FARMS

Shawnee, Kansas

FRANK PAYNE, EDITOR

VOL. 3

FALL 1932

NO. 2

Plant Tulips in Fall After Dahlias

The home owner with limited space for flowers is always interested in having his flowers last as long as possible. When it is possible to have one crop in the spring and another in the fall, on the same ground, the flower lover is generally delighted.

That is exactly what you can do with the dahlias and tulips. When planting is done correctly, the tulips will bloom in the spring and then later in the fall the dahlias will take the same position without harm to either flower.

Rules For Planting.

The tulip bulbs should be planted eight inches deep in the fall and left for three years. Do not dig the bulbs up after they have finished blooming.

The tulips will bloom in this climate about May first and will last for two weeks. They are generally beautiful on Mothers' day. After the tops die down, about June fifteenth remove the dead tops and plant the dahlia bulbs.

The dahlia bulbs should be planted six inches deep which allows plenty of space between them and the tulip bulbs. They will not interfere with each other in any way.

Dahlias Bloom in 90 Days.

It takes about 90 days after planting for the dahlias to bloom. This means that again in the fall the same ground that nurtured the tulips will again "Say it with flowers" and add charm to the home.

Instead of having a bare space all summer long, you will now have green foliage all season and flowers twice a year. In the fall, after frost, the dahlia bulbs should be removed as advised in this issue, but the tulips should remain untouched.

Tulips on the Payne Farm.

Last spring, the Payne farm boasted of a tulip bed containing thirty thousand flowers. There were 152 varieties and the sight was simply wonderful! Every color one could think of in tulips was there. Some were large and some were small.

People came from miles around to witness the sight. Everyone agreed that the effect was wonderful. Next year Mr. Payne plans to have another display even better than last year. Many will say that this is impossible, but those who know Mr. Payne's activity, as far as flowers are concerned, are willing to accept his word. Next year will tell. Be sure and be among those present in tulip time and see the display yourself.

TULIP PRICES

We grow 30,000 tulips in our show garden. They bloom about May first to fifteenth. Come to our show then. We get a shipment of bulbs each year from Holland and can offer you 152 varieties of Darwin, Breeder or Cottage types at only 75c per dozen or \$5.00 hundred, postage prepaid. You can plant them from October until the ground freezes hard. Order some today.



Miss Maxine Payne admiring some of Mrs. I. D. Warner's dahlias. A dollar's worth of dahlias and a million dollars worth of girl.

Dahlias Are Now Popular In Social Circles

This is the dahlia season in Kansas City and persons who cannot talk knowingly of cactus varieties and exhibit blossoms grown from bulbs that cost \$15 or thereabouts are in as bad a social predicament as those who cannot play bridge. Backyard gardens of both amateur and professional dahlia growers are gay with the big white yellow, pink and red blossoms (there are no blue dahlias) and dahlia fans are busy visiting the displays.

The dahlia now is one of the most aristocratic of flowers and has its special societies and exhibitions but it is a comparative newcomer in the society world of flowers. It has undergone great advancement and development since it was brought to this region from Mexico.

The dahlia's chief beauty lies in the size and color of its impressive blossoms. Some of the most delicate exquisite tints and tones have been developed out of the pink and yellow dahlias.

Unlike the modest violet, or the blushing rose, the dahlia does not seek to hide its charm but flaunts its beauty proudly that all passers-by may see. It is unmistakably a modern flower, a symbol of the present generation. There is no sentimentality attached to it and poets do not celebrate it in verse. About the only line of poetry referring to it has been "The garden glows with dahlias, large and new" by Ebenezer Elliott. But perhaps only an imagist or a symbolist could do duty by a dahlia.

Journal-Post—9-12-32.

TRITOMA (Red Hot Poker)

Some times called "Devil's Poker," "Flame Flower" or "Torch Lily." It is from the lily family Hardy, but requires straw mulch during winter months. Produces orange color flowers on straight stems three feet tall. The blooms make wonderful fall decorations combined with oak leaves or plain garden asparagus. Blooms from August to killing freeze. Three plants postpaid for only \$1.00.

Questions and Answers

Anytime you want information about dahlias or the growing of any other flowers, when and how to plant, information about spraying, pruning, insect control or anything else you may wish to know, you are urged to write, phone or come to our dahlia farm and ask all the questions you wish. We consider it a pleasure to help others and do it gladly without charge. In case we should not know the answer to your problem, we have a complete library and can no doubt locate the solution. Just write or call or phone Shawnee 1346. Address

FRANK PAYNE,
Shawnee, Kansas.

Question—Can I plant dahlias out in my lawn this spring by digging holes in the grass sod?

Answer—No, you are sure to have a failure if you do. Dahlias should be planted in soil that has been used for some other crop the previous year. If your soil is a heavy clay, lighten it by applying sand, ashes or chopped leaves in the fall before. Wood ashes is a good plant food for dahlias.

Question — My dahlias get long sprouts on them in April. I have them stored in my basement where there is furnace heat. I do not plant my dahlias until the last of May. What shall I do and why do the sprouts grow so long so early in the spring?

Answer—Your dahlia tubers are kept too warm. Store them in your fruit cellar or some other cool, frost-proof place. If you have no fruit cellar, then store them in your basement but be sure to put sand, dry soil, sawdust, chaff or leaves over the top of the pokes they are kept in. Place the box in the furthest corner from the furnace. The soil or sand you place over tubers will help to keep them at an even temperature. Never plant a dahlia tuber with a sprout that is longer than three inches. Cut the sprouts off leaving only two or three inches of the sprout on the tuber. Do this just before planting.

Question — My dahlias grow big tops early in the summer, then the blooms in the fall are small and partly blasted. I have been to your dahlia farm and noticed that your stalks are not near so tall, yet the blooms are big as dinner plates. Why is this?

Answer — You planted your dahlias too soon or else you have watered and fertilized too much. Our dahlias were not planted until after June 1. We do not water or fertilize. They are planted in good soil such as one would plant corn, beans, or potatoes. All during July and early August they are only about a foot high, yet with nice green foliage. As soon as a heavy rain comes and with cool weather during the last of August or early September they grow rapidly, so fast you can almost see them grow. Within a few weeks they are giving us nice, large blooms so our thousands

and of visitors can enjoy their beauty. Try planting dahlias late in May or the first part of June and instead of watering, go out and hoe, Hoe, HOE. It gets results.

Question—Why is it that some folks grow dahlias with such wonderful large blooms? Mine are always small and very ordinary. I buy my tubers at the dime store and they are so big, almost like large sweet potatoes.

Answer—There can only be two reasons for your trouble. Either you do not give your dahlias enough hoeing or else you are buying ordinary varieties that produce wonderful tubers but very dinky blooms. Some of the best varieties that are grown today that produce such wonderful blooms make such little tubers that they look almost like a pencil or a rat tail. But my, what big blooms, some almost like dinner plates. You cannot expect good blooms from ten cent tubers any more than you could expect to buy a good race horse for five dollars. Pay more for your tubers and get varieties that other folks do not have in their garden and cannot buy at the dime store. Dahlias are an investment, not an expense. You buy one tuber and plant it in the spring. That fall when you dig them up you will find you have three or four tubers and do not have to buy anymore of that variety. So, why not get good varieties to start with?

Question — There is a white mildew on the leaves of some varieties of my dahlias. What can I do to prevent it? How can I poison the grasshoppers that eat certain colored blooms of my dahlias?

Answer — You can control mildew on dahlias by dusting the plants with dry sulfur dust. Grasshoppers are controlled by using a poison bran mash, placing it on the ground around your plants real early in the morning as they feed early. You can obtain the poison mash at your local seed store or you can consult your local county agent for the formula recommended by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Question — When should I dig my dahlias and when must I divide them for planting?

Answer—Dig dahlia tubers in the fall as soon as the tops are killed and turn black from

frost. Cut the tops off at once, even with the ground. Dig very carefully so the tubers will not be broken from the clump. Do not divide the clump until next spring, just a day before you get ready to plant. The sprouts will then be showing and you can divide more easily and be sure of having eyes on every tuber. The eyes come out on the old parent stock.

Question — Where were dahlias found and how were they named?

Answer—Dahlias were found up in the mountains of Old Mexico by the Spaniards. They were taken into Holland with the idea of growing the roots for food like potatoes. The Dutch did not like the taste of them so they were discarded as food. However there was a young Swede by the name of Andreas Dahl who was studying botany in Holland. He started to work on developing the bloom and was very successful. For that reason they were named "DAHLIAS" in honor of the young Swede student. (I think a lot of the Swedes. Why shouldn't I? I make my bread and butter because young Mr. Dahl used his head, and sometimes when dahlia business is right good, we have pie and cake.)

Question — When can I plant Gladioli and how can I have them to keep on blooming all summer? How deep should they be planted and how far apart? How shall I keep the gladioli corms through the winter?

Answer—We make our first planting of gladioli early in March, usually by the fifteenth of March if weather permits. They are always planted six inches deep, six inches apart in the rows and not closer than 18 inches between the rows. The second planting is made about the last of April, the third the last of May and the fourth and last planting about June 25. We have blooms then from July 1 until frost. Store the corms in a cool, dry place, about the same manner as you would store onion sets. You can dig the corms as soon as killing frost or whenever the tops start to die. Scatter the corms thinly on the floor so they can dry and cure properly. Never store in a closed box or tight sack as that would cause them to mold and rot.



A wonderful landscaping effect by planting tulips in mass formation to beautify your home with flowers.



SPOT OF BEAUTY

Frank Payne's Dahlia Farm Attracts Many Visitors To See Floral Displays

Beautification of thousands of yards and country estates in the Missouri Valley, particularly in the vicinity of Greater Kansas City, is traceable to a Kansas farm, which at one time was a landmark for pioneers who wended their way westward to the great open prairies and the mountains beyond. The farm that has gained ed probably more distinction than any other tract of land used for agriculture in Kansas lies one-half mile south of the village of Shawnee in Johnson county on U. S. Highway 50. The farm is operated by Frank Payne.

The Payne Dahlia farm is one of the extraordinary in the state because of its exclusive product of flowers. There, thousands upon thousands of flowers are raised every year.

Forty acres of the old homestead property with its huge stone house more than seventy years old, are devoted to the raising of flowers under the trained eye of Mr. Payne who stands at the head of the Missouri Valley flower growers in mass-production.

Half of the forty acres is devoted to the raising of dahlias and is the largest dahlia farm in the state. On that tract eighty thousand dahlia plants, three hundred varieties are produced annually.

In the blooming season more than a million blooms wave in the breeze presenting a colorful picture that is rarely seen. Motor car drives are provided with electric lighted show garden so visitors may also come at night and see the spectacle. Last year more than thirty thousand visited the farm. Many days the cars were so numerous that police were employed to direct traffic through the fields.

Favored varieties which have won prizes in numerous shows have found their way into some of the most exclusive landscape designs in a radius of one hundred miles of the farm. And at distant points the Payne Dahlias have become widely known. They are being planted extensively in Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri and Arkansas.

Mr. Payne has diversified his effort. Besides the twenty acres used for dahlias, ten acres are used for the production of gladioli which bloom in July. Another ten acre tract is devoted to peonies, tulips and miscellaneous flowers so that the blooming season begins about May first and continues throughout the summer until the cold weather takes the plants about October thirty-first.

Millions of flower bulbs produced on the farm are shipped to all parts of the country, largely in the southern states. Those bulbs of varieties which stand the hot climate best are the basis of a beautification program now generally spreading over the Rio Grande Valley in Texas and New Mexico.

Besides the bulbs sold on the market there are thousands of blooms used by florists in the vicinity. Scarcely any social affair of importance now takes place without some product of the Payne farm in evidence. Its location and name is as well known by the six hundred thousand people in Greater Kansas City as the most widely known public park.

Blossoms from the farm have been exhibited in both the San Francisco and New York flower shows in competition with the best of the flowers produced in other states. On each occasion the Payne flowers from Kansas won prizes.

The production on a farm of flowers of finest American varieties has been a great factor in breaking down the erroneous belief that Kansas can produce only grain. The flowers have carried their silent message to communities in all sections of the Country that Kansas soil, notwithstanding its open prairie and its droughts, responds to cultivation for beauty as well as food.

Methods employed by Mr. Payne have likewise been carried to the four corners of the country. It is not an uncommon sight now to motor a hundred miles from the Payne farm and view yards a-bloom with his flowers. Entrance of the blossoms into the homes around is another story. Every year among the thousands of visitors are members of civic organizations, students of colleges, orphans, shut-ins, aged men and women. Each is given a bouquet as a souvenir of the visit. On several occasions employees of large industrial concerns have been amazed at the sight of a five ton truck laden with blossoms stop in front of the establishment. From that truck bouquets have been handed out by Mr. Payne.

The Payne farm is a pioneer in the flower industry on a large commercial basis. It has been the guiding hand to the flower growing enterprise for the middle west. On his farm there is a test garden in which new varieties of flowers are grown each year with the purpose of ascertaining which plant thrives best under Kansas climatical conditions.

Last year twenty thousand dollars worth of bulbs and cut flowers were sold from the farm in addition to the thousands given away without charge.

OUR TRUE STORY
The attention of many of the several thousand persons who visit the Frank Payne dahlia farm probably has been attracted by a yellow dahlia which helps to decorate the north side of the formal garden.

Interest in this proud beauty increases when Mr. Payne tells its life history.

It is a product of a prison in California. Several years ago, a prisoner there was given a dahlia bulb by a priest.

There was nothing unusual about the prisoner and the bulb was ordinary. The gift seemingly was made merely because the prisoner was assigned to garden work.

The bulb was planted; it grew, flowered and matured.

The prisoner gathered the flower's seed and treasured them as if they represented something new and vital in his existence.

Here Mr. Payne explains that dahlia seeds do not develop here; in fact, hardly anywhere in the United States except in California. Furthermore, there is no relation between a dahlia and the products of its seeds.

The prisoner named his flower Queen of the Garden Beautiful.

Now, of course, the story should end by having the prisoner rewarded with a parole and his becoming an expert dahlia grower.

And Mr. Payne says that is exactly what happened.

Each seed may produce a different—and probably very indifferent—type. But from the seeds come the rare beauties. Whatever kind of flower the seed produces, the bulb produces only that type.

The flowers which grew from the prisoner's seeds were very common with one exception; and the bulb of that one unusual flower is parent of Mr. Payne's favorite yellow dahlia.



Miss Maxine Payne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Payne, standing with a Jane Cowl dahlia. This popular variety measures 12 inches across.

Frank Payne's Dahlia Entries Win at Fair

All of the dahlia entries made by Frank Payne, Shawnee, Kansas, in the Kansas fair in Topeka this week have been awarded first place. This is the third consecutive year Mr. Payne has won the blue ribbons in the dahlia class.

His Gladioli entries also placed well, nine of them winning first place and ten receiving second.

Mr. Payne departed for Topeka from his dahlia farm one-half mile south of Shawnee, Tuesday morning with a truck load of dahlias.

—Journal-Post

THE DAHLIAS' MESSAGE

A dahlia bed has voices sweet,
For those with ears to hear.
The splendor of their beauty fills
The eye that's known a tear.
The softly blending tints and

shades
Are like life's dark and light;
They bring their song to passers by,
To make their pathway bright.

The naive and gold and crimson flows
In bravely marching rows
To comfort, ease, compose.
Repeat their message hour by hour,

Thou' dark and drear all things may seem,
Some hope will yet remain.
The dahlias come to bring their cheer

As autumn comes again.
The dahlias bring a message clear
That shines from each bright flower

That holds its face up to the sun;
They tell that God has pow'r
To fill His world with beauty rare;
Each creature has His love

The dahlias bloom to tell each one
The Father reigns above.

—By Louise Mitchell.

TELLS HOW TO PREPARE BLOOMS FOR EXHIBITION

The best time to cut a dahlia bloom for exhibition is just when it reaches what the dahlia growers call "maturity." Varieties differ in this respect, but very few varieties will bloom out if the yare cut ahead of maturity, as some other flowers will do—the peony, for example. When the back petals or rays show the first signs of drying, a dahlia bloom has reached maturity, says the American Home. These petals can be plucked out, and the bloom will keep two or three days in perfect condition.

Cut your blooms the night before the show and put them in the cellar in cold water immediately. If you have no cellar, put them in a cool closet, but by all means keep them out of the ice box. The sudden change from ice box temperature to warm air the next day is dangerous.

Handle the blooms very carefully in getting them to the show and onto the exhibition tables. Practically all dahlia judges have

BEAUTIFY THE HOME WITH PEONIES

PEONIES must be planted in the fall. It is only in exceptional cases that they will survive if planted in spring and then only when they have been divided in the fall and kept under proper storage conditions during the winter. Further, spring planting at an early date is not always possible owing to unfavorable weather and soil conditions.

September, October and November are the best months for planting. Any time during these months or until the ground freezes will be satisfactory. But the earlier weeks of the season are best because the roots will develop and the plant will become better established for an early start next spring.

Peonies like sunshine, therefore a place away from buildings, trees and other shade should be selected for the peony garden. The soil should be well prepared as for any other crop. The rows should be 3 feet apart and the plants 3 feet apart in the row.

Do Not Plant Too Deep

Perhaps the greatest mistake the inexperienced grower makes is in setting his roots too deep in an effort to provide frost protection. Frost doesn't injure peonies. In fact, if they are planted early in the fall they will begin to grow and develop a root system. The early frosts will check that growth and throw the plants into a rest period, which is desirable.

If the roots are bought of a nursery they likely will come properly divided, ready to plant. If they are obtained from the grower's own garden it will be necessary

to divide the old root clump so there are three to five eyes to the root. Occasionally an amateur will plant larger roots in the hope of hastening blooming. That is just like planting a whole ear of corn. The reason for digging up the old plants is that they develop too many stems and roots for the limited space. To plant more than the required number of "eyes" is to defeat the purpose of replanting the plant. The right depth for the roots is to set the eyes 2 inches below the ground level.

Danger in Fertilizers.

No fertilizer should be applied around the hill. Nitrogenous fertilizers are especially injurious because they will burn or so seriously injure the new feeder roots which begin to develop around the eyes as soon as the old root is set. No much is required or desirable. Peonies are adapted to taking care of themselves so far as the weather is concerned and will do best when allowed to adapt themselves to the approaching winter.

a pernicious way of finding every bruised petal, and many times a choice exhibit loses just because the exhibitor turned the corner too fast in driving to the show, or because of carelessness in cutting and handling the bloom. Obtain a large florist box to carry your blooms to the show, the American Home advises. If you cannot get such a box, have someone carry them in hand on the way to the show room. Make sure that the box is deep enough so that the top will not crush down on the blooms. Pack them into the box face up and close together, so that they not shift around and bruise themselves.

Kansas City Star.

No bloom is likely to appear the first season, although it sometimes does occur under favorable conditions. Normally peonies will bloom the second season but may require three or more years to reach their best. In general, the grower will be rewarded by larger and more profuse blooms when delay occurs. The newer types seem to require the longer period to become established, so the grower should not be alarmed if blooming is delayed.

Ideas For Home Planting.

When peonies are used for landscaping, or planting around the home, they should have more space than will be required by them the first two or three years. In such cases tulips may be planted around or in the vacant space between them. That will relieve the bareness of the ground. By the time the peonies need the space the tulips will have degenerated or will need changing.

Peonies require only surface cultivating. Of course all weeds should be kept down. To make big blooms remove all but the center bud. This work should be done early in the morning with a fine, sharp pointed knife, when the center bud is about the size of a pea. Care must be exercised to avoid injury to the center bud.

Some of the best varieties are the Festiva Maxima, a white; Edulus Superba and Monsieur Jules Elie, both pink; Fragnans and Felix Crousse, both red. These proved in the peony growing region, which is practically everywhere except the extreme South.

PEONY PRICES

We grow an acre of peonies for cut flowers for Decoration Day. They must be planted in the fall, never in the spring. Can furnish good 3 or 5 eye divisions in Red, White or Pink at 3 for \$1.00 or \$3.00 a dozen, postpaid. (\$20.00 hundred not prepaid.) We also have some special select varieties. Ask for our colored circular.

DAHLIAS IN INDIA

India is a great country for flowers. On the plains there are few wild flowers, but given water and some care most any kind of flower can be grown successfully.

But to the hills I lift my eyes when I wish to see real beauty of nature. In the Himalaya Mountains is a rare treat for the botanical student. Each season brings its own display. But when the monsoon season arrives or rainy months come, then it seems as though to try to overcome the gloom of the mist, clouds and rain, nature more than "out does" herself to glorify and beautify these rugged old mountain peaks.

There are ferns of every description, mosses, lichens, snowflowers and rock flowers. Trees bloom and even gutters blossom. But of all the joy that comes to a lover of nature, the greatest is when the dahlias are in full bloom.

There is one hill station that is glorious for its dahlias in August. In the United Provinces of India is reason.

But as yet there are enough bulbs lodged between rocks and on high places hard to reach to make a display worthy of anticipating a gloomy, wet August for the annual dahlia show of Laudaur, India.

—Mrs. W. D. Mercer



Cutting dahlias on the Payne Dahlia Farm. This view shows a small part of the 20-acre field with more than a million blooms waving and smiling a greeting to thousands of visitors.



A single Dahlia tuber divided and ready for planting

Retail List of Dahlia Varieties and Prices

Buy the Frank Payne Way

Send no money! Buy the Frank Payne way. We gladly trust flower lovers. We will enter your order, ship bulbs at proper planting time by mail, prepaid at our expense. A bill will be sent you after you receive bulbs and you can then mail us your check. Isn't that just as fair and square as can be? You couldn't ask for a fairer or better offer than that.

DECORATIVE

These dahlias are the largest size grown today, some are as large as dinner plates. They are double, with broad flat petals.

Mrs. I. D. Ver Warner—Mauve heliotrope. Large blooms from early to frost. We have reports from almost every state in the Union that this variety does well everywhere. No garden is complete without it. We will plant three acres of them this year to supply the demand. Order Mrs. Warner today—its guaranteed. Per tuber, 50c.

Pride of California—Dark red. Large blooms, tall grower. Does well everywhere. Be sure to order some white dahlias to plant with this one. It makes your red dahlias loom up like a house afire. Only 35c per tuber.

Jean Kerr—Pure white. So far, this has proven the best white dahlia we have ever grown. We have tried lots of whites that were highly recommended but somehow they did not like our Kansas sunshine and dry weather like Jean Kerr does. Per tuber 50c.

Jersey Beauty—True pink. The best pink dahlia grown for cut flowers. This variety won sweep-stake prize for three consecutive years at the Am. Dahlia Show. Monster flowers on long stems. (Note—The roots of Jersey Beauty are small, almost like rat tails. Don't expect large tubers. Seems like the smaller the tuber the larger bloom they have.) Price per tuber 75c each.

Harvard—Dark maroon. A pretty flower but we cannot brag on the amount of flowers produced. (Note—If a dahlia does not produce well for us we tell you so. It may hurt the sale of that variety, but we have at least had the pleasure of being honest to you.) Price per tuber \$1.00.

Kitty Dunlap—Creise. Profuse bloomer of large size that keep well when cut. Per tuber 75c.

Amun Ra—Copper. Sometimes called "Sun God." You will like Amun Ra if you are fond of bright flowers and unique color. \$1.00 each.

Jersey Beacon—Chinese scarlet. Mammoth blooms on heavy stocks. You will admire this variety same as thousands of our visitors have each year. Per tuber \$1.00

Paul Michael—Pure gold with orange buff at center. Blooms early and freely. Per tuber \$1.00.

Mina Kay—Oriental scarlet. Our earliest bloomer. Large flowers on good stems. Very bright color, it almost dazzles you. Originated in Kansas. Our stock is limited so not more than two tubers will be sold to any one customer. Sorry, but we sold out of Mina Kay one year and had an awful time getting more stock. Price \$1.50 each.

Halo—Sulphur yellow. An unusual dahlia that is hard to describe. It has a two-tone effect in sunlight or in shade. We have noticed our visitors who rave over the beauty of Halo are usually real flower lovers and appreciate something out of the ordinary. \$1.00 per tuber.

Oyster Bay Beauty—Dark velvety red. Absolutely the best dark red dahlia we have ever grown. Blooms early and continues freely right up to killing frost. Large blooms that keep well when cut. If limited to only one red dahlia we would choose this one and be fully satisfied. Per tuber only \$1.00

Marmion—Pure golden yellow. Monster blooms produced freely on long stems. You are sure to like Marmion. Per tuber \$1.00

King of Commerce—Orange tango. Good cut flower variety. Not large but a wonderful keeper when cut. Per tuber 50c.

Avalon—Clear canary yellow. Large blooms on tall stems well above the foliage. Price per tuber \$1.00.

Copper Bronze—The name tells its color. Blooms very freely on long slender stems. Flowers are not so large but mighty pretty. 75c tuber.

Champagne—Pinkish chamolils color. Wonderful stems, large flowers. Blooms free and keeps well. Per tuber 1.00.

Mrs. J. H. Dick—Citron yellow. Medium size. Lots of blooms. 35c a tuber.

Yellow Colosse—Canary yellow. Not a large type boom, but it is beautiful with its lacy like foliage. Per tuber 50c.

Le Grande Manitou—Lilac, striped purple variegated. Dwarf bush. No two flowers alike even on same stem. A novelty. 50c a tuber.

Florence Finger—Lavender pink. Nice blooms but it is not an early or a profuse bloomer for us. 75c a tuber.

POM PON TYPE

Baby dahlias less than two inches in diameter. Quilled petal like show dahlias excellent for table decorations or in small basket work.

SPECIAL AMATEURS COLLECTION

If my grandmother ask me, "Frank, tell me the eight best dahlias that are easiest for amateur flower growers to grow," here is the list I would recommend:

Mrs. I. D. Ver Warner—(D), mauve heliotrope.
Jean Kerr—(D) pure white.
Pride of California—(D) dark red.
Kitty Dunlap—(D) cerise.
Jersey Beauty—(D) true pink.
Yellow Duke—(S) canary yellow.
Bonnie Blue—(S) violet blue.
Sagamore—(D) Golden yellow.

That list figures up exactly \$3.70 retail. As a special offer you may have them postpaid for \$2.98 and they are a bargain too. Just order the "\$2.98 Amateur Collection" today and they will be sent you at proper planting time. Your entire satisfaction is guaranteed or your money back. That ought to prove what we think of those varieties when we stand back of them that way.

Queen of the Garden Beautiful—Primrose yellow. My, isn't that a big name. Here is the reason. It originated in San Quentin prison in California by a prisoner, grown from seed. (The prisoner is now released and is a good dahlia grower.) Blooms freely with large blooms, 10 to 12 inches across. Per tuber \$1.00.

Jane Cowl—Bronzy buff and salmon shades. A monster flower that grows tall and looks you right in the face. Some attain a measurement as much as 14 inches across. Per tuber \$1.00

Pride of Fort Morgan—Bright red. Giant blooms that sure dazzle your eyes. One of the best varieties of Colorado production. Per tuber \$1.50

Sagamore—Golden yellow. The best golden yellow dahlia grown for cut flowers. We just can't grow enough to supply demands of our florists in Kansas City. Per tuber \$1.00.

Catherine—Canary yellow. Best bright yellow pompon dahlia grown. Has long stems. Blooms freely. Only 35c a tuber.

Little Johnny—Bright red. Makes the cutest bouquets. Blooms freely. 35c a tuber.

Snow Clad—Pure white. Goes mighty well planted with Little Johnny. 35c a tuber.

WE WHOLESALE DAHLIA BULBS

If you wish bulbs in lots of fifty or more, we will gladly quote you wholesale prices if you will send us a list of your needs. We ship bulbs all over the United States and Canada to florists and flower growers to be used for cut flowers, also to the large seed stores and mail order houses. Give us a chance to figure with you and we can not only save you money but furnish some mighty good bulbs too.

SHOW TYPE

This is the old fashioned ball, or honey comb petal dahlia that grandmother grew in her garden long ago. They are excellent for cut flowers, keeping longer than the large dinner plate size decoratives.

Yellow Duke—Canary yellow. The best show type dahlia grown. We grow an acre of Yellow Duke for florists because it's a good keeper. 35c a tuber.

Maude Adams—White, overlaid with lavender pink. Produces most blooms of any dahlia we have ever grown. Early bloomer, too. 25c a tuber.

Bonnie Blue—Violet blue. The nearest blue dahlia grown. Blooms freely. (Tubers look like Irish Potatoes.) 50c per tuber.

A. D. Livonia—Lavender pink. Produces a mass of flowers, so many they may be small unless disbudded. Very popular with florists. 35c a tuber.

Mrs. C. D. Anderson—Purplish crimson. Large flowers produced on a dwarf growing plant. 50c a tuber.

George Gero—Lavender pink. Very large flower. Tall growing. 50c each.

HYBRID CACTUS

These are fully double, with flat petals slightly twisted at the tips. They are sometimes called semi-cactus or informal decoratives. Some are almost as large as the decoratives.

Cigarette—Scarlet, tipped white. Good flowers on long stem. A good cut flower that keeps a long time. \$1.00 a tuber.

Gay Paree—Orange bronze, with autumn tints. Produced in France. Blooms freely. \$1.00 a tuber.

Papillon—Old rose, gold and apricot. This variety is an early bloomer. Large flowers with wavy petals. Reminds one of a beautiful colored butterfly. (Papillon means butterfly in French.) \$1.00 a tuber.

Fort Monmouth—Crimson wine. A monster bloom. 10 to 14 inches across. Grows tall. One flower is a real bouquet alone. A prize winner at all shows. \$5.00 a tuber and worth it too.

Edna Ferber—Coral and old gold. Heavy producer of beautiful blooms nine to twelve inches across. The longer you look at a bloom of Edna Ferber, the prettier it seems. Only \$2.50 a tuber.

Washington City—Pure white. Extra large flowers on long stems. 50c each.

Mail or Phone Your Order at Once

Frank Payne Farms

Telephone Shawnee 1346

Shawnee, Kansas